

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 19, and 20 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Horvitz et al. (“The Lumiere Project: Bayesian User Modeling for Inferring the Goals and Needs of Software Users”); Claims 2-4, 17, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Horvitz et al. reference, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,094,681 to Shaffer et al. (hereinafter “the ‘681 patent”); Claims 5, 6, 18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Horvitz et al. reference and the ‘681 patent, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5, 974,412 to Hazlehurst (hereinafter “the ‘412 patent”); Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘412 and ‘681 patents; and Claims 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘681 patent and the Horvitz et al. reference, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,070,158 to Kirsch et al. (hereinafter “the ‘158 patent”).

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus, comprising: (1) an acquisition device configured to acquire associated information corresponding to an occurrence of a present event using existing information corresponding to a past event; (2) an event occurrence detection device configured to detect an occurrence of an event; (3) an extraction device configured to extract attribute information and a keyword from a first document corresponding to the event; (4) a search device configured to search a database using the extracted attribute information and the extracted keyword to retrieve a second

document having matching attribute information having similarity to the attribute information of the first document, the second document containing the keyword; and (5) a display control device configured to display associated information corresponding to second document. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

The Horvitz et al. reference is directed to a system for providing users of computer software assistance based on considering a user's background, actions, and queries. In particular, the Horvitz et al. reference discloses using Bayesian user models to analyze a sequence of user actions over time to intelligently determine what the user's goals or objectives might be. In particular, the Horvitz et al. reference discloses an implementation of the system within the Microsoft Excel program, as shown in Figures 7-11. In particular, as shown in Figure 11, the Horvitz et al. reference discloses an "Office Assistant" in the Office 97 suite of applications in which a picture of an assistant is shown along with an associated dialogue box for the user to enter a question.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by the Horvitz et al. reference is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the Horvitz et al. reference fails to disclose an extraction device configured to extract attribute information and a keyword from a first document corresponding to a detected event, and a search device configured to search a database using the extracted attribute information and the extracting keyword to retrieve a second document having matching attribute information having similarity to the attribution information of the first document, the second document containing the keyword, as recited in amended Claim 1. Rather, the Horvitz et al. reference merely discloses using a Bayesian

¹ See Figure 5 and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

model to infer what a software user's needs are based on consideration of the past actions by the software user.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the Horvitz et al. reference also fails to disclose a display device configured to display associated information corresponding to the second document, as required by Claim 1.

For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 is rendered moot and that amended Claim 1 patentably defines over the Horvitz et al. reference.

Amended Claim 7 is directed to (1) extracting attribute information from an existing text file; (2) extracting existing keywords from among words contained in said existing text file; (3) computing weights for said existing keywords based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and acquiring associated information for an important keyword of the existing keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold, the associated information being obtained by accessing a search engine on the Internet using the important keyword as a search term; (4) constructing a database by associating the important word with at least one of said attribute information extracted in the extracting step and said associated information acquired in the acquiring step; (5) detecting an occurrence of said event; (6) detecting an event keyword from said text file corresponding to said event detected in the event occurrence detecting step; (7) searching said database constructed in the database constructing step to retrieve said associated information corresponding to said event keyword detected in the event keyword detecting step; and (8) controlling displaying of said associated information retrieved in the searching step. The changes to Claim 7 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.²

² See, e.g., steps S5 in Figure 3 and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 7 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action asserts that the '412 patent discloses everything in Claim 7 with the exception of user interactions as events, detecting an occurrence of an event, detecting an event keyword, searching a database construction in the database constructing step to retrieve associated information, and controlling displaying of that associated information, and relies on the '681 patent to remedy those deficiencies.

The '412 patent is directed to a system for identifying information, including (1) multiple information sets each representing a portion of the information; and (2) multiple collators each independently deriving vector spaces from associated information sets and identifying concepts in the vector spaces, wherein the multiple collators independently identify information in the associated information sets according to the identified concepts in the vector spaces and compete against each other to identify relevant information in response to information queries. In particular, as shown in Figure 4, the '412 patent discloses a system in which information sources are processed using "grinders," "tanks," "mites," and "collators," so as to generate a set of indices for the information and to extract keywords from the document so as to organize the information from the information sources. Thus, the '412 patent discloses an intelligent query engine that uses machine learning techniques to facilitate the automated emergence of information spaces in which objects are represented as vectors of real numbers. Further, the '412 patent discloses that the system delivers information to users based on similarity measures applied to the representation of the objects in the information spaces.

However, as admitted in the outstanding Office Action, the '412 patent fails to disclose detecting an occurrence of an event, detecting an event keyword, searching the

database constructed in the database construction step, and controlling display of the associated information retrieved in the searching step, as recited in amended Claim 7.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '412 patent fails to disclose acquiring associated information for an important keyword of the existing keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold, the associated information being obtained by accessing a search engine on the Internet using the important keyword as a search term, as recited in amended Claim 7. While the '412 patent discloses a system that analyzes documents, extracts keywords from those documents, and organizes the associated information space, the '412 patent is silent regarding acquiring associated information by accessing a search engine on the Internet using an important keyword as a search term, wherein the important keyword is obtained from a text file, as recited in amended Claim 7. Rather, the '412 patent merely discloses "grinding" and extracting of information from a text file.

The '681 patent is directed to a method for automatically providing remote notification of an ongoing event that includes detecting the event by receiving presently occurring data and analyzing the content of the data by using a data filter. In particular, the '681 patent is directed to a method for providing automatic remote notification of a locally detected event including designating at least one event as being of interest to a first user of a data network, monitoring the specified user-intended messages received via the data network for conveying message information to the first user; analyzing a content of the specified messages to determine whether the content is indicative of occurrence of one of the designated events; determining whether the first user is available to receive an automated event notification if the occurrence of an event is detected; automatically establishing a telecommunications link to a specified remote user device in response to a determination that

the first user is unavailable; and transmitting the automated event notification to the specified remote user communication device via the telecommunications link.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '681 patent fails to disclose acquiring associated information for an important keyword of the existing keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold, the associated information being obtained by accessing a search engine on the Internet using the important keyword as a search term, as recited in amended Claim 7. Applicants respectfully submit that the '681 patent was not relied upon by the Examiner for disclose the acquiring step recited in Claim 7.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '412 and '681 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest at least acquiring associated information for an important keyword of the existing keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold, the association information being obtained by accessing a search engine on the Internet using the important keyword as a search term, as recited in amended Claim 7. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that rejection of Claim 7 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

Independent Claim 8 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 7, and has been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 7. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 8 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

Claim 9 is directed to an information processing apparatus for displaying an animated agent on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, comprising: (1) a processing detection device configured to detect, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program; (2) a key word detection device configured to detect key words from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said

event detected by said processing detection device; (3) means for computing weights for said key words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and searching for said associated information for an important key word of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold by searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word; (4) an input device configured to input a command; (5) a command processing device configured to execute, in response to said command inputted by said input device, processing on said associated information; and (6) a display control device configured to display, in response to said event detected by said processing detection device, said animated agent onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said animated agent in response to said command inputted by said input device.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Office Action asserts that the '681 patent discloses everything in Claim 9 with the exception of an animated agent and changing a manner of displaying the animated agent in response to a command inputted by the input device, as well as computing weights for the keyword based on the use of a current frequency in the text file and searching for the associated information for an important keyword having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold, and relies on the Horvitz et al. reference and the '158 patent to remedy those deficiencies.

As discussed above, the '681 patent is directed to a method for providing automatic remote notification of a locally detected event.

However, as admitted in the outstanding Office Action, the '681 patent fails to disclose means for computing weights for the keywords based on the use of a current frequency in the text file, and searching for the associated information for an important keyword of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold by

searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to the important keyword, as recited in amended Claim 9.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '681 patent fails to disclose a display control device configured to display, in response to the event detected by the processing detection device and animated agent on the display device and changing the manner of displaying the animated agent in response to the command inputted by the input device. In particular, Applicants note that page 14 of the Office Action admits that the '681 patent fails to disclose this limitation.

The '158 patent is directed to a collection search system responsive to a user query regarding a collection of documents to provide a search report.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '158 patent is silent regarding a display control device configured to display, in response to the event detected by the processing detection device, the animated agent on the display device and changing a manner of displaying the animated agent in response to the command inputted by the input device. Applicants respectfully submit that the '158 patent is completely silent regarding the animated agent recited in Claim 9.

As discussed above, the Horvitz et al. reference is directed to a system for providing assistance to software users based on a consideration of a user's background, actions, and queries. Further, as discussed above, Figure 11 in the Horvitz et al. reference discloses a picture of a person intended to act as an "Office Assistant" for a user.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Horvitz et al. reference fails to disclose changing a manner of displaying an animated agent in response to a command inputted by an input device, as required by Claim 9. The Horvitz et al. reference does not disclose that the manner of displaying the Office Assistant shown in Figure 11 is changed in

response to a command inputted by the input device, as required by Claim 9. Rather, Figure 11 merely shows and illustrates a static picture.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '681 patent, the '158 patent, and the Horvitz et al. reference are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest changing a manner of displaying the animated agent in response to a command inputted by an input device, as recited in Claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and the rejection of Claim 9 should be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 15 and 16 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 9. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and the rejections of Claims 15 and 16 should be withdrawn.

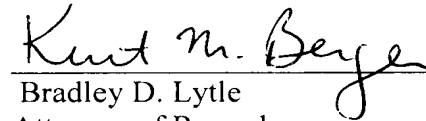
Regarding the rejection of dependent Claims 2-6, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully submit that the '681 and '412 patents failed to remedy the deficiencies of the Horvitz et al. reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of the above-noted dependent claims are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 7-9, 15, and 16 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kurt M. Berger", is written over a horizontal line.

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